

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF G.D.SEARLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN
INDIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

1. INDIAN EXPRESS (BOMBAY EDITION) PUBLISHED FEB 9 ON ITS FRONT
PAGE A REPORT CULLED FROM WASHINGTONPOST OF FEB 8 ON US PHARMA-
CEUTICAL FRIM G.D.SEARLE'S ALLEGED CLANDESTINE SUPPORT TO PROFESS-
IONAL SEMINARS IN 1965 AND 1966 TO PEDAL ITS ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE
PILLS. WE ARE POUCHING YOU A COPY OF INDIAN EXPRESS REPORT.

2. THE GIST OF THE EXPRESS STORY IS THAT G.D.SEARLE'S INTER-OFFICE
MEMOS REVEALED THAT FIRM SPENT \$35,000 IN SUPPORT OF A SEMINAR
ORGANIZED BY THE ALL INDIA GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN 1965 IN WHICH
PROFESSIONAL PAPERS RECOMMENDING ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES WERE PRE-
SENTED. SOON AFTER, IN ANOTHER CONFERENCE IN JAN 1966 ORGANIZED BY
THE ALL INDIA SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS AT PATNA,
SEARLE SPENT \$10,000 TO PAY FOR ATTENDENCE OF CERATIN OVERSEAS
SPEAKERS. THE REPORT ALLEGES THAT SEARLE DECRIED INDIAN GOVERN-
MENT'S, AND PARTICULARLY THE THEN MINISTER OF HEALTH'S, BIAS IN
FAVOR OF IUD. ANOTHER INSTANCE OF SEARLE ACTIVITIY QUOTED IN THE
REPORT IS AN ALLEGEDLY INSPIRED LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN OF POPULATION
CRISIS COMMITTEE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY PLANNING RECOMMENDING SEARLE PRODUCTS. THE COMMITTEE
REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A CONTRIBUTION OF \$50,000 FROM SEARLE.

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3. ALTHOUGH THE REPORTED EVENTS ARE OVER 10 YEARS OLD AND THERE
ARE NO ALLEGATION OF BRIBERY OR UNDUE INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC
OFFICIALS, THIS STORY OF SEARLE'S DEVIOUS PROMOTION OF ITS PILL
CAN FURTHER CHURN THE TROUBLED WATERS US PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS
ARE ENCOUNTERING IN INDIA. WE WILL GET THE REACTION OF
S.S.RANGNEKAR, CHIEF OF SEARLE INDIA TO THE STORY.
COURTNEY

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